

Major Campbell, Captain Boesch and Captain Seelye. The ceremony followed a regular morning service, and nearly all stayed for the "Independence Celebration." The church was crowded and an opening had to be made down the main aisle for the visitors to march through. General Girdwood led and I followed him, then came the Belgian Commandant attached to the British Forces. There were about thirty American, British and Belgian officers present. The ceremony opened by two priests who were gorgeously robed, and accompanied by three pages dressed in red gowns and white surplices. The ceremony only lasted 11 minutes and consisted of chanting by the Priest with responsives by the choir, the organ playing all the time. Whether the Priest and choir chanted in Latin, French or Flemish, I am not sure, and I did not understand a single word.

It was very impressive, however. One thing surprised me, and that was that they did not play or sing their National Anthem.

Sunday noon the Colonel called by for me to talk over and discuss the occupation of the West and East Poperinghe lines by the 30th Division in case the Germans made an attack on the Ypres sector. We were working out the position that each unit would occupy and the necessary march orders to get the units to their positions. It is expected that an attack will be launched tonight, and if so we will put up a counter barrage and our troops will move into their positions. We mapped out positions and then visited our various camps and notified the commander of what disposition they were to make of their troops. This kept me busy until nearly dusk. We went back to Watou, made our final decision and then I returned to my camp, reaching here about 10:15 p. m. I then had to confer with the Adjutant, Major Cothran and Captain Brooks in regard to what they would have to do. I had not any supper and by the time we were through the conference I wanted to go to bed, and did so forgetting all about supper. I was expecting to be awakened about midnight by the expected bombardment. I slept right through the night. No bombardment or shelling with gas shells. I had given orders to the Officer of the Day to caution his sentries to be particularly on the lookout for gas shells and to be sure and wake up everybody in camp if a gas attack was started.

*July 22, 1918, Monday.* In preparation for a possible attack and our occupation of the East Poperinghe Line, Colonel Ferguson